

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS, OCTOBER, 1919.

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Farm work was frequently delayed during the month in some central districts as a result of rainy weather and was suspended the latter part of the month by snow and cold weather in much of the northwestern area, while frequent interruptions were caused in the Southwest by rains and wet soil throughout the month. Rainfall was sufficient during the early part of the month to facilitate plowing in some central districts where the soil had been too dry, and this work made better progress in those sections.

Small grains.—In general, the weather during the month was favorable for seeding and for germination of winter grains, except that the first part continued too dry in Kentucky and in portions of the adjoining States, as well as in the lower Great Plains and in the Atlantic coast districts. The rainfall in much of the more western portion of the country during the first week of the month was very beneficial in softening the ground for seeding and in promoting the germination of grain. It was too wet, however, in the west Gulf region during most of the month and there was some interruption by rains in the lower Great Plains the latter part. There was too much rain, also, the latter part of the month in Kentucky, Arkansas, and Tennessee, and the seeding of winter grains was considerably delayed in those States, but, at the same time, rains in the eastern portion of the winter-oat belt put the soil in better condition for seeding in that area. The weather was unfavorable for the harvesting and thrashing of rice in the lower Mississippi Valley and the Southwest and the frequent rains caused some damage to that grain. Winter grains germinated well, came up to a good stand, and at the close of the month were in generally good-to-excellent condition. Some damage resulted to grain sorghums in the lower Great Plains by wet weather. Considerable damage was done to corn by the flooding of lowlands, particularly in the Ohio and Middle Mississippi Valleys and portions of the Southwest.

Corn.—At the beginning of the month the corn crop was out of danger of frost in all central and northern dis-

tricts and by the end of the first decade of October it was safe in practically all sections of the country. Rainy weather, however, delayed the drying out of corn in many central sections, particularly in the Great Plains and the Western Mississippi Valley States, which rendered it unsafe to crib in large quantities. The rainfall near the middle of the month in the southern drainage area of the Ohio Valley was beneficial to late corn.

Cotton.—Sunshine was inadequate and that there was too much rainfall during October for the proper development of late cotton from the Mississippi Valley westward, and deterioration of the crop resulted while considerable damage was done to open cotton by excessive rains. On the other hand it was too dry for best results in the more eastern portions of the belt, but the rainfall during the second decade was beneficial in the northeast. Picking made very slow progress in the western portions of the belt and during part of the month was entirely suspended, but this work made good advance in the eastern States where weather conditions were more favorable for harvest.

Pastures, truck, and fruit.—Sufficient rain fell during the first decade of the month to improve pastures and ranges in nearly all districts, except that it continued too dry in the Southeast where meadows and pastures deteriorated. Thereafter, the weather was mostly favorable in nearly all sections, but the range was covered by snow the latter part of the month over the upper Great Plains, and much suffering of live stock was reported. Some damage resulted to late truck by frost in the central and upper Rocky Mountain regions during the first week, and it continued too wet in the west Gulf section and was too dry during much of the month in the Southeast, but in other districts truck crops were favorably affected by the weather of the month. More moisture would have benefited citrus fruits in Florida, but the weather was favorable for these crops in California where naval oranges were reported to be setting well.